THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir. There are glass containers which are re-usable.

(b) Even though the incidence of excise duty on glass containers is higher than that on tin containers, the incidence of duty on raw materials used in the manufacture of tin containers is much higher than that in the case of glass containers. The rates of duty on various goods are decided having regard to relevant considerations including the end-use thereof.

(c) The import component in the manufacturing cost of tin containers and glass containers depends on a variety of factors such as the nature of the product, the process of manufacture, indigenous availability of inputs, etc.

(d) There is no proposal at present to equate the central excise duty on glass containers with the duty on tin containers.

Interception of T.N.Vs by B.S.F.

737. SHRI NARAYAN KAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the last nine years, the B.S.F. could not intercept even a single Tripura National Volunteer while crossing over the border; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what steps have been taken to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) In an encounter on 2-9-1980 the BSF killed one TNV extremist and two other extremists were arrested near Ultachera under Police Station Gandachera, South Tripura. The BSF also arrested another TNV extremist during the period in question.

(b) The BSF has been deployed on the Tripura border for border guarding duties. While vigil on the border has been increased, factors like difficult terrain, lack of proper road communication and problem of identification of extremists limit the performance of BSF in this regard.

Tripura-Bangladesh border fencing

738. SHRI NARAYAN KAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state what progress has so far been made in the proposed barbed wire fencing and observation towers on the Tripura-Bangladesh border?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): In phase I, the work of survey for construction of road alone along the Bangladesh border adjoining the State of Tripura has been taken up. 3 additional observation post towers are presently under construction and another 182 will be constructed during the next three years.

Stoppage of production of small coins

739. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to stop production of 5 paise, 10 paise and 20 paise coins; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.